



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/590,976	08/28/2006	Yasuyuki Suzuki	3939-0120PUS1	2609
2292	7590	12/29/2008	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747				CHU, YONG LIANG
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1626				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
12/29/2008		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/590,976	SUZUKI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	YONG CHU	1626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 September 2008.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 26 August 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-8 are pending. Claims 6-8 remain withdrawn as non-elected subject matter. Therefore, claims 1-5 are under examination on the merits.

Response to Amendment

The Amendment by Applicants' representative Mr. John W. Bailey dated on 09/23/2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Objection to the Specification

Applicants' amendment by updating the first paragraph of the Specification with continuing data to which the instant specification claims benefit from has obviated the objection.

Claim Objection

Applicants' amendment of claim 1 has obviated the objection.

Claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Applicants argue that the '730 patent and the FDA Drug Application NDA#019437 do not recognize or address the specific decomposition problem of the benzamidine compound of the Formula (I) due to coexistence with a formulation additive under humidification/heating conditions in a solid state and due to a high pH state in the liquid state, and the present invention is based on the surprising discovery that the increase in the amount of impurity was inhibited in the present invention due to

the presence of an electrolyte, such as NaCl. Applicants' arguments have been fully considered, but are found not persuasive. The so called "unexpected or unrecognized" results by the Applicants are indeed recognized by the combined teachings of the two previously cited prior arts, and not unexpected results. The '730 patent teaches a composition which may further comprises pH adjustors and/or stabilizing agent, see the 1st paragraph, page 5 of previous Office action. It clearly demonstrates the need of pH adjustors and/or stabilizing agent for stabilizing the formulations. In addition, FDA Drug Application NDA#019437 teaches a drug formulation which contains electrolytes such as NaCl, MgCl₂, or KCl as pH adjustors and/or stabilizing agent, see 2nd paragraph, page 5 of the previous Office action. Therefore, the problem the instantly claimed invention intends to resolve is indeed obvious to one skilled in the art in view of the combined teachings of the two prior arts. Accordingly, the rejection is maintained.

Rejection Based on Obviousness-type Double Patenting

Applying the same type analysis above, the ODP rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

- No claims are allowed.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Telephone Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yong Chu whose telephone number is 571-272-5759. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 3:30 pm EST. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph M^Kane can be reached on 571-272-0699. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Status information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

/REI-TSANG SHIAO /

/Yong Chu/
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1626

Robert Shiao
Primary Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1626